

FORT BEND COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE



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Abstract: **Burb Jack Wendt**

Jack Wendt was born in Matagorda County, Texas November 4, 1922 but had moved to Fort Bend County by 1928 at about the time the Richmond irrigation canal opened. His family and he were rice farmers. Jack talks about cutting rice with a binder, using a threshing machine before combines, their largest tractor was about 30 horsepower. He was an independent producer for sixty-five years and talks about all aspects of his life, including marriage, family, hunting, farming, ranching, and the many organizations of which he had an active part. [President Texas Rice Council, National President of the USA Rice Council] At seventy years of age he was thrown off a horse and broke his back, and kept right on working. He also tells of his world travels for business and pleasure.

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Mr. Jack Wendt died on February 22, 2013. His obituary may be found at:
http://www.garmanycarden.com/fh/obituaries/obituary.cfm?o_id=1981586&fh_id=13280

Interview Summary

People)

Mrs. Billie Harris Wendt (wife)
 Mr. Jackson (built Richmond canal)
 Mr. Laher of Garwood, Texas (built Richmond canal)
 Mrs. Betty Wendt Greenwald (sister)
 Mr. Jackson (tailor downtown)
 Mr. Walter Whatly (bought suit for Jack)
 Evalyn Wendt (daughter)
 Laurel Wendt (daughter)
 Jackie Wendt (daughter)
 Amilee Wendt (daughter)
 Mr. Scott (school superintendent)
 Doctor Wilson (head of A&M experiment station)
 Mr. Hunter Pinksey Harris (father of Billie Wendt)
 Doctor Titus Harris (brother of Hunter Harris)
 Tommy and Bonnie Greenwald (traveling companions)
 Mr. Ed Huggins (provided hunting place)
 Mr. Titus Harris (cousin of Billie, bird hunting partner)
 Mr. Bill Larer (contributed to Wendt chair at Texas A&M)

Places / Businesses

Richmond high School
 First Methodist Church in Richmond
 Blue Ribbon Rice Mill
 Uncle Ben's Rice
 American Rice Inc.

Broussard Rice Mill in Beaumont
 B.U. Growers, Bay City
 Texas Rice Council
 USA Rice Council
 US Rice Producers Assoc.
 Federation Rice Board
 Texas Rice Review Committee
 Texas Education Commission at A&M
 Texas Southwest Cattle Raisers Association
 American Farm Bureau
 Texas A&M
 George Ranch
 Fulshear, Texas
 Caldwell County
 Beasley, Texas.
 Ranch in Caldwell County
 Bluejay, the ranch in Beasley
 Blanco Chinchero Ranch, Colorado

Events

Broke back at age 70
 1986 Farm Bill
 1995 USDA Rice Study Tour
 Farm Subsidy Programs
 Travels - China, Philippines, Japan, South America, Africa, Dubai, Canada, Montreal, Galveston, Colorado, Chile, Argentina